

# Iowa Department on Aging

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Director Donna Harvey

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## **Deanna Clingan-Fischer Named New State Long Term Care Ombudsman**

*Clingan-Fischer has Extensive Experience in Law and Aging Issues*

Des Moines, IA (December 19, 2011) Today, Iowa Department on Aging Director Donna Harvey appointed Deanna Clingan-Fischer as Iowa's State Long Term Care Ombudsman.

"I am pleased to announce the hiring of Deanna Clingan-Fischer as Iowa's State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Clingan-Fischer is an attorney who brings extensive experience and knowledge to this position and has served the Department for twenty-two years as the Department's Legal Services Developer," Stated Director Donna Harvey.

Clingan-Fischer commented, "I look forward to working with, and on behalf of, residents and tenants residing in Iowa's long term care and assisted living facilities. The Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman is a tremendous state-wide resource available through a network of locally designated ombudsmen. Our local ombudsmen excel at what they do and it will be a pleasure to act in a leadership role to ensure Iowa's vulnerable citizens are protected and enjoy quality lives".

Deanna Clingan-Fischer's career path has led to numerous leadership honors at the state and national levels, including the national *Aging & Law Award* for significant contributions to justice for older persons.

The State Long Term Care Ombudsman will direct eight designated regional long term care ombudsman and Older Americans Act Title VII elder rights protection activities. Clingan-Fischer replaces Jeanne Yordi, who accepted the position of Family Caregiver Specialist with the Iowa Department on Aging.

In her seven years of service as the State's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, In collaboration with the Iowa Department on Aging and Iowa General Assembly, Yordi oversaw the growth of the office as it expanded from three local ombudsmen to eight local ombudsmen serving Iowans statewide. Yordi also developed and implemented program standards for local ombudsman programs resulting in greater use of the program by older Iowans, and their families.

Yordi also helped develop the State Facility Crisis Team protocol that is now used when a facility is closing, at risk of decertification or in an emergency situation.

In 2010, Yordi received the national *Hollis Turnham Award* for advocacy. She is the only long-term care ombudsman to receive this honor.

To find out more about the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, contact the office directly toll-free at: 1-866-236-1430.

For more information on the State Ombudsman's Office and the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) go to the website: [www.aging.iowa.gov](http://www.aging.iowa.gov) .

The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

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